under consideration of the Government. Since setting up of regulator involves enactment of legislation by the Parliament, it may not be possible to indicate the exact time frame for the same. Within the extant legal framework, appointment of an independent regulator for coal sector would result in more optimal development and conservation of coal resources, more effective regulation, adoption of best mining practices, rational pricing, better distribution, evolution of a more competitive market etc. It would also help in creating a level playing field for new entrants in the coal sector.

Import of coal

†1834. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to import coal during 2008 and 2009;

(b) if so, the quantity of coal imported/ to be imported;

(c) the name of the country and price at which it was imported/to be imported;

(d) the reserved stock of coal in tonnes in the country and the production of coal during the above mentioned period; and

(e) the extent to which the shortage of coal in domestic sector would be met as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) As per the present import policy of the Government, coal can be imported by any entity under Open General Licence (OGL) on payment of applicable import duties. Coal India Ltd., has not been importing coal directly so far.

(d) The total closing stock of coal with CIL as on 01.04.2008 and 01.04.2009 was 45.59 mts and 47.72 mts respectively. The production during 2007-08 and 2008-09 was 379.46 mts and 403.73 mts respectively.

(e) During the year 2007-08 and 2008-09, the shortage of coal was met by imports by the end users which were 49.79 mts and 59.00 mts respectively.

Use of railway racks by MCL in Talchar coalfield area

1835. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) is encouraging movement of coal by railway racks even within short distances, say within a radius of 100 km. from Talchar;

(b) what is the number of displaced/ substantially affected persons who are earning a livelihood by transporting coal by road in Talchar coalfields area; and

(c) considering the distress which would be caused to the DPs and SAPs of Talchar area, whether Government would consider directing the MCL authorities not to use railway racks within a radius of 100 km from Talchar?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.